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Japan to invest ₹3.2 L cr in India in next 5 years

In a big-ticket move, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday announced an investment target of five trillion yen (Rs 3,20,000 crore) in India over the next five years. The Japanese leader is in India to participate in the 14th India-Japan annual summit. He held talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on a wide range of issues. The two sides inked six agreements providing for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in a range of areas | **P13**

G-23 holds fire as truce reached with Gandhis

RS term likely for Asad, PCC chief post for Hooda

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

WITH the top leadership of Congress reaching out to members of the group of 23 (G-23) dissidents to iron out differences, a compromise seems to have been arrived at to prevent a split in the grand old party.

According to party leaders in the know of the matter, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi is likely to offer another Rajya Sabha term to Ghulam Nabi Azad and appoint Bhupinder Singh Hooda as the president of Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee.

"Things are moving in a positive direction and we are hopeful of a peaceful resolution soon. Ultimately, the agenda of both the parties is that the Congress should lead the country once again. Party leadership was always open to dialogue but on an appropriate platform. The only problem was the way they (G 23) perceived it. Given the way talks are being held, it seems that the crisis is going to end," said a Delhi-based Congress leader.

On Thursday, former party president Rahul Gandhi had a closed-door meeting with Hooda during which the latter sought the charge of the Haryana unit of the party. After the meeting, Hooda went straight to Azad's place, where some members of G-23 huddled once again in the evening. They reportedly discussed concrete proposals to strengthen the party and chalk out future strategy.

On Friday, Azad met Sonia at her residence. Later, Azad termed the meeting "good" and said Sonia should continue to lead the party.

The head of an affiliated unit of Congress said that Azad's statement, after meeting with Sonia, had amply suggested truce between the high command and G-23 leaders.

ZELENSKYY WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES AS RUSSIA TIGHTENS STRANGLEHOLD

- Russia uses advanced hypersonic missile Kinzhal for the first time to destroy an arms depot in Deliatyn
- It can travel at 10 times the speed of sound and is nearly impossible to track and intercept the missile thanks to its speed, manoeuvrability and altitude
- Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday warned Russia will suffer for generations if it doesn't take "the only chance" to settle differences through peace talks

50 Ukranian soldiers killed as Russia hits military barrack in Mykolaiv | P12

Row brews, CM for Gita in schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Yadgir, Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday hinted that Bhagwad Gita will be introduced in schools, like in Gujarat, in the coming days.

At Devatkal village of Shorapur taluk, he said the Gujarat government took the decision as Bhagwad Gita helps students learn moral education. "The education department will study the issue and place its report before the cabinet. The cabinet will take an appropriate decision," he added.

To a query on whether only Bhagwad Gita preached morality, Bommai replied asking which other books preached moral education like the Gita did.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh said there is an unnecessary controversy surrounding the issue. "This is aimed at teaching morality, and it is not about religion," he added. The minister said the government will proceed with its plans to introduce Gita based on the advice of experts.

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah said, "The government should teach moral education to students, but it should be through Bhagwad Gita, Quran and Bible." He asserted that there should be no discrimination on the basis of religion. **P4**

6 die as bus overturns in Tumakuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

IN a ghastly accident, six youth – including two college students, were killed and 44 were severely injured after an overcrowded private bus overturned near a tank at Palavalli village in Pavagada taluk on Saturday morning.

The state government announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to those injured. Transport Minister B Sriramulu, who visited Pavagada town, announced another Rs 1 lakh each to the relatives of the deceased.

Around 80-90 passengers, including some 30 people on top, were travelling in the SVT private bus from YN Hosakote to Pavagada town, picking up workers and students along the route. "It was the peak hour and students boarded the bus as they had no other alternative," said Nagendra, an eyewitness. **P5**

Passengers and onlookers near the bus that overturned near Pavagada on Saturday

Lakshya Sen in All-England final

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN the last four months, India's **Lakshya Sen** grabbed eyeballs with his superb display in the Badminton World Federation circuit. On Saturday, the 2021 Worlds bronze medallist defeated Lee Zii Jia from Malaysia 21-13, 12-21, 21-19 to reach the finals of the All England Open. The shuttler, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru, also clinched the India Open in January. **P15**

What's wrong with saffron? asks Naidu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

VICE-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday called for a total rejection of the Macaulay system of education, saying it's high time the "colonial mindset" changed.

"We are accused of saffronising education, but then what is wrong with saffron? I don't understand," Naidu said while inaugurating the South Asian Institute of Peace and Reconciliation at the Dev Sanskriti Vishwa Vidyalaya in Haridwar.

"We must go back to our roots. We must give up our colonial mindset and teach our children to take pride in their Indian identity," the vice-president said.

He called for a total rejection of the Macaulay system, saying it imposed a foreign language as the medium of instruction in the country and confined the education to the elites.

Naidu's comments came days after the BJP-ruled Gujarat issued a circular to include Bhagwad Gita in the syllabus of classes VI-XII.

EXPRESS READ

Case filed after K'taka HC CJ gets life threat

Bengaluru: Following a life threat to the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court over the judgment on the hijab issue, the Bengaluru police on Saturday registered an FIR against unknown persons | **P4**

GO!
It is time for the Congress to look within and beyond the Gandhis. But the family seems in no hurry to vacate the premises.
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4th wave unlikely: Virologists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

NO fourth wave will occur in the country unless an unexpected variant that behaves differently comes up, said top virologist T Jacob John on Saturday, adding India should not worry about Covid spikes seen in South Asia, especially in China and South Korea. "Today, with three waves behind us and with Omicron gone, I do not understand how fear needs to be inculcated into human beings and for what purpose. I don't believe in predicting a wave based on mathematical modeling. There is nothing to fear the fourth wave," said John at an event to release his book, Polio — the eradication imbroglio – the disorder and its remedy.

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